

Application No. 10/674,895
Response dated May 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated February 24, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 3675-030216

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 9-13, 28 and 29. In order to advance the present case to allowance, the claims are amended through the above amendments to properly format the subject matter indicated as being allowable by the Examiner. In particular, claim 1 is amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 9 as well as intervening claims 3, 7 and 8, and claims 3, 7, 8 and 9 have been cancelled. Additionally, claims 28 and 29, both of which have been indicated as being allowable, have each been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 27, and claim 27 has been cancelled accordingly. Finally, claims 22-26 have also been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to maintain the subject matter of any claims cancelled herein through continuation and/or divisional applications without prejudice thereto.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 14-18 and 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,205,325 to Piper, and claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious over Piper in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,344,491 to Nolan. Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments to the claims involve the subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is deemed appropriate and is respectfully requested.

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Additionally, as claim 1 represents a generic claim, and claims 19-21 represent species depending (indirectly) from claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder of these species claims 19-21, and favorable consideration thereof.

In view of the amendments and remarks above, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and favorable allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this information or wish to discuss this matter in further detail, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at 412-471-8815.

Respectfully submitted,

THE WEBB LAW FIRM

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